

Howland Wood - Curatorial

Belote, Theodore Thomas
[U.S. National Museum

(1 of 2) 1918-1928

Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C.]

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 14, 1918.

Mr. Howland Wood,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Wood:

I take pleasure in enclosing herewith the copies of the lists referred to in your letter of March 6th which should have been forwarded some time ago but have been delayed on account of a press of other work. With the copies of the lists, which you will note are indicated as Original List A, Original List B Part 1, and Original List B Part 2, I have enclosed a copy of a list prepared by myself, based upon all the information at hand concerning the character of the coins in question. The written numbers which appear on the photographs in your possession are Museum catalog numbers and the printed numbers refer to corresponding numbers in the original lists. The numbers referring to Original List A are upon the coins to which these numbers refer, and the numbers referring to Original List B are above the specimens. By bearing this in mind you will be able to connect the photographs with the corresponding data in my own list and in the original lists. In a single instance I believe the numbers of the photographs have been transposed and that is in connection with the two coins represented by Original List No. 17, Cat. No. 93857 and Original List No. 18, Cat. No. 93858. In this case the photograph of coin No. 17 is given under No. 18 and vice versa. I am inclined to believe that the term "present" or "present year" as used in Original List B Part 1 refers to the year in which the coins were presented to General Grant, namely, 1881. It may also be noted that of sixty-three coins described on the original lists the Museum received only thirty-eight.

Assuring you of my sincere appreciation of any assistance which you may afford in connection with the data given in my list, believe me with best wishes,

Very truly yours,

Theodore B. Peterson

Curator,
Division of History.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 19, 1918.

Mr. Howland Wood,
Curator, American Numismatic Society,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Wood:

Many thanks for your favor of June 12 with the lists enclosed. I quite agree with you that the relationship between these lists and the original coins is very complex. I am inclined to believe, however, that the final list prepared by myself is, in the main, correct. I am exceedingly grateful for the trouble which you have taken in connection with this matter.

I regret to say that the Museum has not as yet acquired either the new distinguished service cross or the new distinguished service medal. We are, however, at present making an attempt to add these to our collection, and when we have been successful I shall be very glad to let you know.

I am enclosing an official order for two copies of the Society's medal commemorating the visit of the French and British Commissions which you will kindly turn over to Mr. Noe. I trust the supply of these medals has not as yet been exhausted.

Believe me, with best wishes,

Very truly yours,

Theodore B. Nelson

Curator, Division of History.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 5, 1918.

Mr. Howland Wood,
Curator, American Numismatic Society,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I beg to acknowledge with thanks your letter of August 2d and also the receipt of the two copies of the society's medal commemorating the visit of the French and British war commissions to New York, which were received a few days ago, the cost of which will be forwarded to your society as soon as we have received bills in duplicate in accordance with the usual routine in such matters.

I had a very enjoyable conversation with Mr. Newell some weeks ago in the course of which he informed me of the collection of army and navy insignia which your society is now assembling. I am very anxious to see the collection and may be able to visit New York the last of this month and I am sure I should derive great benefit from inspecting your exhibition. As Mr. Newell told you, I am undertaking to assemble a military exhibition for the Museum which would naturally include insignia, but the undertaking has been delayed in various ways and so far small progress has been made in this connection.

Thanking you for your letter, believe me with
best wishes

Very truly yours,

Theodore B. Pitkin

Curator,
Division of History.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

WASHINGTON, D. C.

September 24, 1918.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Wood:

I wish to thank you for your favors of September 7 and 14, and I regret very much that I have been unable to answer sooner.

I am informed by the custodian of medals in the Quartermaster's Department that the group of three oak leaves concerning which you enquire is intended for installation on the ribbon attached to the distinguished service crosses and medals, the single oak leaf serving the same purpose in the case of the ribbon bars belonging to these awards. They are thus used for additional citations, as is the palm in the case of the Croix de Guerre. The star is utilized in the same manner but the custodian himself was unable to explain clearly the distinction between the citations calling for oak leaves and those calling for stars. I have heard of no additional devices for the Congressional Medal of Honor.

I have thus far been unable to ascertain the object of the War Department in securing sets of the Boy Scout insignia but expect to accomplish this as soon as I see a representative of the War College with whom I am personally acquainted.

I wish to thank you for your courtesy in connection with my visit to the Society during my recent trip to New York, which proved a very enjoyable and profitable visit. I am very grateful for what you say regarding the ultimate disposal of your highly valuable collection of army and navy insignia and I think the Museum would be exceedingly fortunate to secure any material of this character from you. The Museum's war exhibit is not, however, at present sufficiently far advanced for me to be in a position to formulate any request concerning the material in your possession.

Again thanking you for your letters, believe me with best wishes

Very truly yours,

Theodore G. Belote

Curator,
Division of History.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 22, 1919.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of March 20th and also of the large consignment of Army and Navy insignia which was received in good shape, and your promptness in forwarding it is greatly appreciated.

Owing to the length of the list some little time will elapse before the voucher for the amount due you can be forwarded, but I am now engaged in the preparation of this list and will get it out as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

Theodore C. Bate

U.S. National Museum
Washington, D. C.

January 5, 1922.

Mr. Howland Wood.
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:—

Can you furnish me with any data concerning the origin and use of the bronze medal a rubbing of which I enclose? We have received a number of inquiries concerning this piece and particularly with regard to the language represented by the inscription on the reverse.

Thanking you greatly in advance for any assistance you can render in this connection believe me with best wishes

Very truly yours
T. V. & DeLoe

January 6th, 1922

T. T. Belote, Esq.
U.S. National Museum
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

Within the past few years, I have seen a number of pieces of which you sent me a rubbing. It is of modern and, I think, European make; and certain things on it leads to the supposition that it is a Lucky piece, pure and simple. I think, however, that someone once told me that it was the badge of some cult in Europe that was dabbling into Oriental mysticism. This is all I know about it.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E

U.S. National Museum

January 10, 1922

Mr. Howland Wood,

New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I want to thank you for your letter of recent date and I venture to trouble you again on a matter of numismatic interest. An officer of the U.S. Marine Corps has forwarded to the Museum for identification two silver coins ^(actual size) photographs of which I enclose herewith. He is anxious to secure the exact date of their issue if possible. They were recently found in Hayti and he naturally supposes them to be of great antiquity and value. One seems to be Spanish and the other Oriental in character. I shall

take great pleasure in erecting
you with the attention when
returning the coin.

Thanking you greatly for
your trouble in this connection
believe me,

With best wishes

Very truly yours
Thos. B. Petate

Thomas
1707-20

John

James

Philip 1707-20

1707-20

7 out

January 18th, 1912

Theodore P. Belote, Esq.
U.S. National Museum
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

The two coins of which you sent photographs ^{and}
~~two~~ two-real pieces struck in Mexico during the
17th Century by either Philip III or IV. These
can only be told apart by the date.

The other coin is a coin of ~~Spain~~ 141, 1703-
1730 of Turkey struck at Tabriz.

The Mexican coin circulated freely almost
everywhere, and it is as liable to be found in
Haiti as anywhere else. The Turkish coin must
have drifted there wholly by accident.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E
Encs.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 19, 1922.

Mr. Howland Wood,
New York City,

Dear Mr. Wood:

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of January 18, with the photograph of the coins, and to express my sincere appreciation of the assistance which you have rendered in this connection. I regret very greatly my lack of opportunity to make a detailed study of specimens of this character in collections such as those of your Society. It seems unfortunate that the city of Washington should not possess an adequate collection of such material, in view of the interest of the general public in collections of this type.

Again thanking you for your trouble in this connection,
I am

Very truly yours,

Harold B. White
Curator of History.

U.S. National Museum
Washington, D.C.

May 3, 1922.

Mr. Howland Wood,

New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:—

The Rev. Theodore Rover
of the Marine Seminary
Brookland Sta. Washington
D.C. brought in this C.M.
a gold coin for examina-
tion as to its authenticity
which I am unable to
identify. It is 15 mm. in
diameter and bears on the
one side a conventional
bearded portrait surrounded
by the inscription "ANTONINUS
ABG. PIUS" and on the other
an eagle on a thunderbolt
to the left with the inscrip-

II

"ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ"
alone and "O.V.P" is the
field to the left. I shall
greatly appreciate an opin-
ion from you as to the
history and authenticity
of this piece. Should you
so desire you might com-
municate with the owner
of the coin direct and send
me a carbon of the letter.

Thanking you in ad-
vance for this kindness
and also for your courtesy
and assistance during
my recent visit to New
York, believe me,

With best wishes,

Very truly yours
Theodore V. Peterson

May 26th, 1922

Theodore T. Belote, Esq.
U.S. National Museum
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

Please excuse the delay in answering your letter. I put it aside to show it to someone who knew more about ancient coins than I did and the letter got misplaced.

The gold coin with Antoninus Pius is undoubtedly a fabrication, possibly made up from two different coins, as Ptolemy on the one side is only on coins of two or three centuries before the time of Antoninus. That is about all I can say regarding this piece.

I trust you are making progress with the Decorations.

Very truly yours,

Curator

U.S. National Museum
Washington, D. C.
May 31, 1922.

Mr. Howland Wood
American Numismatic Society
New York City

Dear Mr. Wood: -

Thanks for your favor
of May 25. The delay in replying
was of no consequence. Am glad
to know about the gold coin
a description of which I for-
warded to you. The piece seemed
to me a very peculiar one.

Thanks to your assistance
when I was in New York
I now have my war deco-
rations fairly well labeled.

With best wishes, believe me

Very truly yours
Theodore B. Petate

May 15th, 1923

Mr. Theodore T. Belote
U.S. National Museum
Washington, D.C.

Dear Belote:

Our Council passed a Resolution to write to Secretary Mellon favoring the transfer of the Hart collection to Washington, and a letter was sent to that effect on Saturday last. Also, the N.Y. Atlantic Club on Friday evening passed a similar Resolution. It looks now fairly favorable for the National Museum's getting it.

Very truly yours,

Curator

ME/A

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 16, 1923.

Mr. Howland Wood,
The American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Wood:

I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of yesterday. It is very gratifying to note that favorable action was secured on the part of the American Numismatic Society and the New York Numismatic Club regarding the transfer of the numismatic collection from the United States Mint in Philadelphia to the National Museum. Whether the transfer will be completed is still in doubt, but in any event it is pleasant to know that the organizations in question have cooperated with the Museum in this connection. If the transfer is completed I feel sure that everyone interested in the development of the science of numismatics in the United States will be gratified by what is accomplished as the result of the transfer.

Personally I wish to express my sincere appreciation for your courtesy during my recent visit to New York. Please remember me very kindly to Mrs. Wood and the children and I trust I may at some time in the future have the pleasure of seeing you all in Washington.

Believe me, with best wishes

Very truly yours,

Theodore B. Petole

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Division of History,

June 1, 1923.

Mr. Howland Wood,
The American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Wood:

I am sure you will be much gratified to learn that the collection from the Philadelphia Mint arrived here a few days ago and we are now taking up the work of making a beginning in connection with the exhibition of this material.

I trust I may have the opportunity soon of personally consulting you in connection with the many problems which are presented by this great work, some of which we discussed during my recent visit to New York.

Again I wish to express my appreciation of the assistance which you and the American Numismatic Society have already rendered in this connection and I sincerely trust that whatever we undertake in the future in this connection will be as successful as this initial achievement. Believe me with best wishes

Very truly yours,

Theodore B. Betts

June 5th, 1923

Theodore Belote, Esq.
United States National Museum
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

Congratulations on at last getting
the Mint collection!

Do not hesitate to call upon me for
any help that I may be able to give you.

Very truly yours,

HW/E

Curator

U.S. National Museum
Washington, D. C.
March 3, 1924.

My dear Mr. Wood:

I am glad to know that you expect to have an opportunity to visit Washington some time this month, and shall take great pleasure in conferring with you concerning a number of matters relating to our Ornithologic Collection. Any time you can come will be convenient to me so far as I can now see. Better however write me in advance so that I can arrange my time accordingly. Other considerations aside I think the sooner you can get down the letter.

I have been expect-
 ing the pleasure of a visit
 from Mr. Warriner but
 he has not showed up
 thus far. If you are in
 close touch with him
 could you not both come
 at the same time, meet
 Mr. Ravenel, ~~Director~~ of the
 Museum, etc. What would
 you think of such an arrange-
 ment? It might be that
 Mr. Warriner as President of
 the A.N.A. would be in-
 terested in some of the
 problems in hand and
 could assist in connec-
 tion with their solution.
 Had a long visit from S.
 H. Chapman last week.
 Let me hear as to your plans.
 Meanwhile, believe me,

Very truly yours
 T. C. Deane

March 11th, 1924

T. T. Belote, Esq.
U.S. National Museum
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

Since receiving your letter I have been in touch with Wermser, and we are going to make a numismatic pilgrimage to Baltimore and Washington. We shall land in your city on Monday, March 24th, and if we do not see you toward the end of that afternoon, we will camp on your trail on Tuesday - therefore, be on the defensive!

Very truly yours,

Curator

U.S. National Museum
Washington, D.C.
March, 14, 1924.

Dear Mr. Wood:-

I note with pleasure
that I am to expect a
visit from you and Mr.
Mowbray March 24th or 25th
or better still on both these
dates. I have some
matters for discussion
which I trust will be
of interest and I am
looking forward to the
conference with very pleas-
ant anticipation of a
minimally festive.

With best wishes, be-
lieve me,

Very truly yours
J. O. Silliman

April 3rd, 1924

Mr. T. L. Belote
U.S. National Museum
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

I reached home safe and sound, having profited well by my trip to Washington, and want thanks to you!

I am enclosing a photograph of the Purple Heart which I mentioned to you. This was found in a deserted farm house in New Hampshire by Captain Willey who was poking around and looking for anything of interest which he might come across. His hobby is insignia and old uniforms. The uniform upon which this heart was sewn was hanging in a woodshed, and the woollen cloth was riddled with moth holes, one of which you can detect in the photograph, below the heart. As the house had been empty for a long while, there was no way to learn the history. Everything, however, seemed to be absolutely authentic. The centre of the heart is a figured lavender silk - faded no doubt from the original purple. The edging is a tarnished silver braid. The Heart is now the property of the Order of the Cincinnati of Exeter, New Hampshire. This Chapter will soon publish a monograph on the Purple Heart by Willey.

Kindly remember me to Mrs. Belote and the little "bloaters"!

Very truly yours,

Enc.

Curator

April 25th, 1924

Mr. T. T. Belote
U.S. National Museum
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

Many thanks for the photographs of the
Indian Peace Medals which came to hand today.

Very truly yours,

Curator

COPY

THE PENNSYLVANIA MUSEUM
Memorial Hall, Fairmount Park
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

May 21, 1924.

Dear Mr. Belote:

I have examined the "peace medal" at the Historical Society here in Philadelphia and am enclosing for you a photograph of the mark as it appears on that medal. date 1793.

On inquiry I find the American Numismatic Society in New York have seven similar medals. But I am quite certain that the one in your possession is authentic, and the mark is that used by the same man, only it appears to be an older punch, as far as I know, a punch that he used as early as 1780. He He was Joseph Richardson, son of Joseph, who was son of Francis- all three Philadelphia silversmiths-from 1700-1804.

I shall be glad if, some day, you can send the medal to me, that I may confront it first with the one at the Historical Society and then with those in New York.

The mark "IR" on the sugar bowl lent by the Potters is identical with the mark of piece No. 177 in the catalog. Both are pieces of an early period, I think probably before 1750. (Joseph I was married 1748).

With the hope that you will get me the address of Messrs. Potter and with best regards,

Very sincerely,

(Signed) S. W. Woodhouse, Jr.
Acting Director.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 18, 1924

Mr. Howland Wood
American Numismatic Society
New York City

Dear Mr. Wood:

Please pardon my delay in expressing my appreciation of your courtesy and kindness during my *recent* visit to New York. I ~~find~~ the suggestions which you made, regarding the object of my visit at that time, very helpful in connection with my work both in New York and Philadelphia.

I neglected to inquire from you whether the interesting little collection of European coins which you gave me at that time was to be entered on our record as a gift from you or from the society through you.

We are obliged, of course, to be very exact in matters of this character and I shall appreciate it very greatly if you will enlighten me in this connection.

You will, I am sure, be interested in hearing that we have recently received from the Treasury Department the numismatic library connected with the Mint collection. This aggregation of numismatic literature will be of very great value for future work in this connection.

With best wishes, believe me.

Very truly yours,

Frederick D. Petrie
Curator of History.

December 20th, 1924

Mr. Theodore Belote
Smithsonian Institution
United States National Museum
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

You might credit these coins I mailed you
as a gift from the Society.

I am glad that you have the collection of
numismatic books from the Mint, for they were no use
there and will prove of value to you.

With the Compliments of the Season,

Very truly yours,

Curator

April 17th, 1925

Mr. T. T. Belote
National Museum
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

Have you as yet obtained a specimen of the Stone Mountain half-dollar? If not, I would suggest your trying to get some from the Treasury Department. I would like to get a copy. It looks to me now as if they might not be issued as they have appointed a new sculptor who proposes to change a good deal of the design of this Mountain. These pieces may not be issued in their present form. If none are available now, you might make a request that some be turned over to you after the Assay Commission has met.

Very truly yours,

Curator

U. S. National Museum
Washington, D. C.
April 24, 1925

Mr. Howland Wood
The American Numismatic Society
156th Street and Broadway
New York City

Dear Mr. Wood:

I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of April 17th and to say that I have not as yet obtained a specimen of the ~~Stone~~ *Mountain* ~~one~~ half dollar. As soon as I received your note, I visited the Treasury Department and was informed by Miss O'Reilly that the coins had already been struck and entrusted to the custody of the Society by which they would be placed on sale to July 15th. She informed me that prior to the date mentioned it would be impossible for even the Museum to secure any specimens of this interesting coin. She also stated that she thought there was very little chance that there would be any change in the design of such coins or of the issue of a coin of a new design. This seems to render it necessary for us to wait until July 15th before we can secure any of these pieces.

Thanking you greatly for the suggestion contained in your letter, believe me with best wishes.

Very truly yours,

Frederick D. Stone

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 28, 1925

Mr. Howland Wood,
American Numismatic Society,
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Please inform me whether you have in your collection of Indian peace medals any of the type shown on the enclosed photographs. I shall appreciate very greatly any information which you can give me in connection with the subject matter of the accompanying letter concerning medals of this type. Do you know when Mr. Belden's paper on this subject is to be published? We have recently had a number of inquiries along this line. Please return the photographs.

Thanking you greatly for your assistance in this connection, believe me, with best wishes

Very truly yours

Theodore B. Beldene
Curator
Division of History

June 2, 1925

Theodore Belote, Esq. -
Curator, Division of History
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D. C.

Dear Belote:

I have never seen anything just like the Spanish Indian medal of which you send a photograph. I have occasionally seen English medals mounted up in heavy rims with engraved legends showing. They were presented by private people to particular Indians. I should judge this was a similar proposition from Spanish sources, probably given to some Indian chief in what was once Mexico by some religious organization or some municipality. It has none of the ear-marks of being governmental. Its worth is a matter of conjecture.

I cannot tell when Mr. Belden's account of Indian Peace Medals will appear. We have no funds to publish it and have not been over-successful in raising the required amount of money.

Very truly yours

HW C

Curator

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Division of History,
August 22, 1925.

Mr. Howland Wood,
American Numismatic Society,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Wood:-

I beg to enclose herewith a photograph of
some early Spanish or Mexican coins which were found in
Mexico. The designs seem to be entirely conventional.

Could you furnish me with an opinion as to
the time when they were struck? I presume they are not of
any great interest or value.

Thanking you for any information which you
may be able to give me in this connection, believe me, with
best wishes,

Very truly yours,

Frederick V. Zetser

Curator.

Encl.

August 28th 1925

Theodore T. Belote, Esq.
United States National Museum
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

Replying to your letter of August 12nd, your coins are 2-real pieces, struck in the time of Philip II, Philip III or Philip IV, in Mexico. It is impossible to give you a more definite date as the edge inscription is gone and the types are the same for all three rulers. They are of no value, and sell for their silver, or a little bit over, bullion value.

Very truly yours,

Curator

Enc.

August 28th, 1925

Sir John Bucknill
High Court
Patna
Bahir & Orissa, India

Dear Sir:

I beg to thank you for the copy of the Numismatic Supplement containing your observations on the Prince of Wales Island. I am going to read this with a great deal of interest. Upon glancing it through, I should judge that you have taken up everything most fully.

I trust that your stay in England was pleasant and profitable.

Very truly yours,

Curator

December 8th, 1925

T. T. Belote, Esq.
National Museum
Washington, D.C.

Dear Belote:

Many thanks for your letter re. the dollar mark. I am sorry that you are unable to throw any further light on the subject, but, as a matter of fact, I did not think that you would be able to do so. I am, myself, convinced that there never was any Governmental authorization for this, Although I have noticed the Portuguese symbol is the same as ours, I never really gave it any thought. I might suggest to Magnus, the man in Germany who desires the information, that he might look into this as well.

Very truly yours,

Curator

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 15, 1925

Mr. Howland Wood
American Numismatic Society
Broadway & 156th Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have received an enquiry concerning a copper medal two inches in diameter the obverse of which bears two globes above which appear three rings intertwined one of which is enscribed "Religion". Above the whole appears the inscription "Con la triple garantia" and below a legend beginning with "Desato" and ending with "el Otro". The reverse bears a crude wreath above which appears the legend "Secunda Epocha". Can you help me to identify this piece which is of crude workmanship and I should say was made during the early part of the nineteenth century. I have a notion that I referred a medal of this identical type to you some years ago but am unable to find your letter on the subject.

Thanking you for your assistance in this connection, believe me with best wishes,

Very truly yours,

Theodore T. Detmold

Curator of History.

December 16th, 1925

T. T. Belote, Esq.
National Museum
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

The medal about which you ask, is a Mexican War medal issued by the Provincial Government between April 1st, 1823, and October 10th, 1824. There is a very common similar medal with Primera Epoca, which was issued under the Regency, September 28th, 1821 and May 18th, 1822 - both these medals come in silver and copper, and should have a ring at the top for suspension. A great number of these must have been handed out as they are still very common.

Very truly yours,

Curator

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 24, 1925.

Mr. Howland Wood,
C/o American Numismatics Society,
156th St. & Broadway, New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I expect to be in New York next Monday and Tuesday, December 28th and 29th, and if your building is open that week and you are in your office I shall take great pleasure in paying you a call. Please do not, however, interrupt any engagements which you may have on hand for the purpose of seeing me.

If your building is open and you do not expect to be there I shall appreciate it very greatly if you would leave your collection of Colonial Paper Currency with some one who might go over it with me, as I am very anxious to see this particular collection at this time.

Assuring you of my very best wishes for a very happy Christmas and a delightful New Year, I am

Very truly yours,

Theodore B. DeLott

Curator
Division of History.

February 26th, 1926

T. T. Belote, Esq.
U.S. National Museum
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

Can you tell me, without too much trouble,
when and where the motto UNITED WE STAND DIVIDED WE
FALL originated? I cannot find it on tokens before
the Civil War period. Of course, it was common then,
but was it ever used earlier?

Very truly yours,

Curator

U.S. National Museum
Washington, D.C.
March 4, 1912.

Dear Mr. Wood:—

I have been so busy that
long delay in answering
your note of February
26. I have been under the
impression that I had
shown the remainder
concerning the use of the
mosses mentioned that
I have failed to locate
it and must confess
I can throw no light
on the origin of the
specimen in question.

Please be so kind
as to furnish me with
a description of the in-
scription and the coin
of which I want an
impression. The date
I saw it in 1912 and
I was interested by case

of the parts before
me - not!!

Thinking you pretty
good as in certain ad-
dition me, but not mine.

Y truly yours
J. C. B. to

Mr. Woodhouse

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 10, 1926.

Mr. Howland Wood,
The American Numismatic Society,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I beg to acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of your letter of March 8th. I am very sorry that I am unable at this time to furnish you with any data concerning the original of the motto "United We Stand, Divided We Fall". Probably sooner or later this information will turn up and when it does, I will gladly send it to you. In accordance with your request, I have examined the oval Washington Indian Peace Medal with very great care for the purpose of deciding whether it is a copy or an original. At one time, I believed it to be a copy, but I now think that it is undoubtedly an original medal of genuine silver plate. Dr. Woodhouse, of the Philadelphia Museum, who is one of the best authorities on silverware in this country, examined this medal about a year ago, and at the time pronounced it an original. It is, as you know, stamped JR on the reverse, and is similar to a medal attributed to the Philadelphia silversmith, Joseph Richardson, in the Pennsylvania Museum Bulletin, Number 68, June, 1921. This publication states, however, on Page 29, that Joseph Richardson died in 1784. His son, however, who was also a silversmith and who worked with his father for a long period, seems to have used the same mark JR. These are merely suggestions and I do not offer them as final statements. Dr. Samuel W. Woodhouse, of the Pennsylvania Museum, Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, can give you the authentic information on these points, but I believe he is at present in Europe. Perhaps you know some expert on Philadelphia silver-makers who can settle this question without further reference.

One good turn deserves another. I am sending you herewith an impression which duplicates quite a number of so called coins recently referred to the Museum.

I am very glad to note by the current number of the Numismatist that the Association has definitely decided to meet in Washington next August. This will certainly give me an excellent opportunity to acquire the real Numismatic spirit. I trust that the meeting will be a large one and I shall look forward with much pleasure to seeing you and President Wormser at that time.

Very truly yours,

truly yours,
Theodore Tilton

Later.

enclosure.

March 11th, 1926

T. T. Belote, Esq.
United States National Museum
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

Many thanks for the information you have given me on the old Washington medal, and also on Richardson. I will send your letter to Mr. Belden, who is writing the article.

The rubbing enclosed shows it to be a modern fabrication, not, I think, to deceive collectors but for use as an ornament or fob. We see a number of these in brass, copper, and gold or silver plated. Most of those which I have seen are much thinner than the genuine pieces.

Very truly yours,

Curator

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 14, 1926.

Mr. Howland Wood,
American Numismatic Association,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I beg to enclose herewith a copy of a letter which I received from B. W. Duff, of Duluth, Minn., together with two photographs which he has forwarded. I shall appreciate it very much if you will kindly furnish me with information on the basis of which I can reply accurately to Mr. Duff's inquiry. The numismatic collection of the Museum does not include any coins of the type described by him, but I presume you have such coins in the collection of the Numismatic Association.

I should also like to have your opinion concerning the date of issue of a pewter medal sixty-two millimeters in diameter, the obverse of which bears a portrait of Washington three-quarters to the left within a legend terminating in the words "of our country." The reverse of this medal bears two clasped hands above the date 1789 and below appears a peace pipe and a hatchet, crossed above a floral wreath. This medal is apparently quite old, and is said to have been secured recently from an Indian chief residing in the middle West. The owner wishes to know its rarity and value. I am of the opinion that it is one of the unofficial peace medals issued by trade companies during the early part of the nineteenth century, and I presume you have duplicates of such a medal in your collection.

I am looking forward with very pleasant anticipation to the meeting of the American Numismatic Association in Washington week after next. I presume you and Mr. Wormser will both be here at that time and it will be a very great pleasure for me to show you around in the Museum.

Thanking you cordially in advance for furnishing the information which I have requested, believe me, with best wishes,

Very truly yours,

3 Enclosures.

Theodore J. Dill

Curator

February 3, 1927

Theodore Belote, Curator,
Smithsonian Institution,
United States National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Please pardon the delay in answering your letter concerning the inscription on the Paroda coin. I do not pretend to know Nagari and at the present moment there is no one here who can read it.

I have worked out part of the inscription, which I have written down on the letter which you sent me. The upper half of the circular side inscription is: Sri Sayajiray Gayakavada, which is the name and title of the ruler. The lower part says something about being current. The other side has the date and value.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW:MF

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Division of History,
February 8, 1927.

Mr. Howland Wood,
American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters containing the translation of the inscriptions on the Baroda coin. Many thanks for your assistance in this connection.

Thanks also for the suggestions which you have made to Mr. Wormser in connection with the purchase of numismatic specimens by the American Numismatic Association for exhibition in the National Museum.

I have just written Mr. Wormser that I think both of your suggestions are good, but personally I am inclined to favor the one concerning the purchase of mediaeval coins.

Believe me, with best wishes,

Very truly yours,
Theodore B. Petrie
Curator.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 27, 1927.

Mr. Howland Wood,
American Numismatic Society,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Wood:

We have recently had a large number of enquiries concerning the history of the large button enscribed "GW" and "Long live the President". There seem to be a large number of these buttons in existence and the impression is that they were used as presidential buttons in 1797 and are accordingly very valuable. I have never established the history of this button in a satisfactory manner. Can you tell me anything authentic in this connection? Thanking you for your assistance in this matter, I am with best wishes,

Very truly yours,

Thomas V. Belote
Curator

Division of History.

April 30, 1927

Mr. Theodore Belote,
Curator Division of History,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C..

Dear Mr. Belote:

Although I have seen many, I have never made the study of this large button inscribed "CW." I know there has been more or less written on this but just off hand I do not know where to put my finger on it. It strikes me, however, that it is best to go to headquarters. There is one man here that you really ought to know, as he is a great student of buttons, especially military buttons. In case you do not know him, his name is William L. Calver, 600 West 136th St., New York City, and if I were you, I would write to him direct and start a correspondence with him as he undoubtedly can aid you in other matters.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW:MB

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Division of History,
May 3, 1927.

Mr. Howland Wood,
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway, at 156th Street,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I beg to acknowledge with thanks
the receipt of your letter of April 30. It
will give me much pleasure to communicate with
Mr. Calver in connection with the "GW" button
and I trust he will be able to throw some
light on this complicated subject.

Again thanking you for your
letter, believe me with best wishes,

Very truly yours,

Theodore G. Seltzer

Curator.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Division of History,
July 8, 1927.

Mr. Howland Wood,
American Numismatic Society,
159th Street and Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Colonel W. Lee Hart, Medical Corps, U. S. Army, has recently presented to the National Museum an example of the Medaille de la Reconnaissance Langroise, which was established by the Town of Langres in 1919 and awarded to the personnel of the American Base Hospital Number 53, in recognition of services rendered during the War with Germany.

Colonel Hart has left with me a second example of this medal which he wishes to present to the American Numismatic Society, provided the Society wishes to accept the donation.

This medal is, I think, of much interest both from the historic and artistic viewpoint and I shall take great pleasure in forwarding it to you as soon as I receive an expression of your wishes in this connection.

I recently visited New York but found it impossible to spare the time to get as far from the business district as your Museum. I presume you are looking forward with much interest to the meeting of the Association in Hartford. I am making an effort to attend that meeting and I shall hope to see you there.

Is the Society's publication on the subject of Indian Peace Medals now available? The National Museum has recently received an unusual number of inquiries in connection with this interesting subject.

With best wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

Theodore V. DeCote

Curator.

July 12, 1927

Mr. Theodore T. Belote,
Smithsonian Institution,
United States National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Belote:-

Your letter to Mr. Wood was opened by me in his absence. He is away during this month on vacation. The more personal parts of it will, of course, have to await his return. With regard to the medal that Colonel Hart has so generously offered to present to our collection, may I say that we shall be very glad, indeed, to have this. Please accept our thanks for your good offices in bringing this about and let me have the address of Colonel Hart in order that we may also make to him an expression of our thanks.

Trusting that during some future visit to New York, we may have the pleasure of greeting you here, I am

Cordially yours,

Secretary

SPN:MB

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Division of History,
July 19, 1927.

Mr. Sydney P. Noe,
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway between 155th and 156th Streets,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Noe:

Referring to your letter of July 12th, I take pleasure in enclosing herewith the example of the Medaille de la Reconnaissance Langroise which was left with me by Colonel W. Lee Hart for presentation to the American Numismatic Society.

Colonel Hart's present address is "Headquarters, Sixth Corps Area, 1819 West Pershing Road, Chicago, Illinois.

Thanking you for your interest in this transaction, believe me, with best wishes,

Sincerely,

Frederick O. Delate
Curator.

July 27, 1927.

Theodore T. Belote, Esq.,

U. S. National Museum, Washington.

Dear Mr. Belote:-

Thankkyou for your letter of the 19th, enclosing example of the Medaille de la Reconnaissance Langroise let with you for presentation to this Society by Col. W. Lee Hart.

We shall also acknowledge this gift to Col. Hart, and beg that you will accept our thanks for your share in its addition to our collection.

Very truly yours,

Secretary.

30th December, 1927

Mr. Theodore Belote,
U.S. National Museum,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Belote:

Did you ever see such a medal as the enclosed rubbing? It was cut by the old mint engraver Furst; therefore it would seem as if it were government work. I have looked everywhere, but can not find mention of this piece. What I was wondering about chiefly is what these first payments signify made in 1823. Were they the beginning of the French spoliation claims of the Napoleonic wars?

Very truly yours,

Curator

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Division of History,
April 7, 1928.

Mr. Howland Wood,
American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Wood:

A silver medal $1\frac{3}{4}$ "
in diameter, of excellent workmanship has
recently been submitted to me for identi-
fication.

The obverse bears a de-
sign, representing St. George slaying the
dragon, surrounded by the legend "S. Georgius
Equitum Patronus". The reverse bears a view
of Christ stilling the storm on shipboard,
surrounded by the legend "In Tempestate Se-
curitas".

Can you inform me as to
the history of the medals of this type? Are
they religious, ^{or} commemorative, or do they
represent a subclass of decoration?

I shall appreciate very
greatly any information which you may furnish
me in this connection.

With best wishes ~~for~~ ^{of} the
Easter season to yourself and family, I am

Very truly yours,

Meredith Peck
Curator.

April 10, 1928.

Mr. Theodore Belote,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

Your medal- St. George on one side and a ship on the other, is really an amulet. They have been made for one hundred and so years, and are being made today in Germany. They are used chiefly by soldiers and sea-faring men, and can be got in various sizes and in all kinds of metal at many Novelty Shops and Jewelers . They are virtually worth next to nothing as a class.

Very truly yours,

Curator.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Division of History,
June 1, 1930.

Mr. Howland Wood,
American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

The National Museum has recently received as a gift a set of sixteen medals arranged in a leather case in the form of a book, the back of which is inscribed "Thomason's Scientific and Philosophical Medals".

I understand that these medals, which are for the most part without designs and bear merely long inscriptions relating to the natural and mechanical sciences, were designed by Sir Edward Thomason, the British inventor about 1830. The medals are totally lacking in any artistic features and have no merit in that connection. Do you happen to know whether they are considered valuable from the historical or scientific viewpoint, whether they have ever appealed to collectors of unusual medallic types and if so, what prices they have commanded in this connection? The collection is on the whole, I think, quite an interesting one, and I should like to ascertain whether the donor has presented us with something of more than the usual market value.

Thanking you in advance for any information which you may be able to furnish me in this connection, believe me, with best wishes,

Very truly yours,

Theodore Peltate
Curator.

4th June, 1928

Theodore Belote, Esq.,
Curator, Division of History,
United States National Museum

Dear Mr. Belote:

In England there is a demand for the better-class tokens made by Thomason, as he employed the best die-engravers of the time. There was also, I think, a demand for some of the larger and best-executed medals. Thomason issued vast quantities of coins, medals, and tokens. In this country there is no demand at all for medals. I very much doubt if the collection of 16 pieces that you have would have much value either in England or over here. I can not find any quotations. Your pieces, I think, are struck on one side, the reverse being on another planchet. This is the best I can do for you.

Very truly yours,

Curator

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Division of History,
September 19, 1928.

Mr. Howland Wood,
The American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Wood:

I am enclosing a crude drawing of what appears to be a crude attempt to imitate an ancient Roman or Greek coin. This is the third specimen of this character which has been forwarded to the Museum from the Pacific Coast, and I shall appreciate it very greatly if you can give me any information concerning its character and source.

Believe me, with best
wishes,

Very truly yours,

Theodore V. DeLoria
Curator.

221 September, 1938

Mr. Theodore T. Delate,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Delate:

The piece of which you send a rubbing is nothing but a fabrication, there never having been such a coin in ancient days. They come in a number of forms, all distinguished by the size and little pins on the reverse. The large ones are cast and of several types. The small ones come as a rule from the Balkans, Syria, etc. Most of the large ones are found in Italy. Some are undoubtedly 100 or more years old. Those that have turned up recently are for the most part of a very yellow bronze or bronze gold-plated. It has always been a mystery why any one should go to the trouble of making them and then bury them or throw them in rivers, etc. - because most of these pieces apparently are found in this manner by peasants. I can not discover that the original finder has ever bought one. We get about ten a year brought in to us here. The pieces are certainly a mystery but are absolute fakes.

Very truly yours,

Curator

Howland Wood - Curatorial

Belote, Theodore Thomas

(2 of 2) 1930-1937

[U.S. National Museum
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, DC]

National Museum
Washington, D.C.
May 12, 1830.

Dear Mr. Wood:-

Could you tell me
~~written~~ too much trouble
the character of the coin
shown on the enclosed
rubbing? If so I shall
appreciate your assistance
in this connection.

I suppose you have
your collection well
arranged now in
your new building.
I expect to visit New
York some time
soon and I am look-
ing forward to a

II

trip, and your way-
something I have
not enjoyed for a
long period.

Thanking you for
many previous favors
in their same con-
nection, believe me,
with best wishes,

Very truly yours,
Charles B. Felt

May 13, 1930

Mr. Theodore T. Belote
National Museum
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

You only show one side on the rubbing you sent me and I cannot therefore tell the mint. The inscription which is in Arabic, says, "SULTAN MAHMUD KAHN MAY HIS REIGN BE PROSPEROUS". Judging from the rubbing I don't think this is a coin but what is known in the garment trade as a sequin, which was made to sew on ~~the~~ dresses of oriental type.

We are just about fixed up and arranged, and some day I should be glad to see you whenever you get the chance.

Sincerely yours,

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 9, 1931.
Division of History.

Mr. Howland Wood,
The American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have recently received for examination an Italian copper five centesimi piece of 1862 bearing on the one side the regular reverse design and legends of such pieces and on the other the same design and legends incuse. The owner wishes to know whether such pieces are rare and also whether they have any commercial value. Can you enlighten me on these points?

Thanking you in advance for this information, believe me, with best wishes,

Very truly yours,

Theodore B. Betts

Curator.

March 11, 1931

Mr. Theodore T. Belote
Curator, Division of History
United States National Museum
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

The Italian copper five centesimi piece with the obverse impressed as an intaglio on the reverse, is known as brockage. It is simply a mint mishap, being due to the coin previously struck remaining in the die and therefore acting as one of the dies on the next striking. Such things happen at times in all mints but for the most part the pieces are detected and do not get into circulation. Naturally these pieces are scarce but few are interested in them, and they might or might not sell for a small premium. At any rate, no great value is attached to them.

Sincerely yours,

Curator.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 18, 1931.
Division of History.

Mr. Howland Wood,
The American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Many thanks for your recent letter containing the desired information concerning the Italian coin.

I am sending you herewith a drawing of a silver token about the size of a silver dollar which was submitted to me yesterday by a man from West Virginia. Have you such a token in your collection? The design immediately below the cross on the obverse is quite suggestive of the original KKK and I am wondering whether this particular piece was struck soon after the Civil War in accordance with the date on the reverse.

Thanking you for any assistance which you may render in this connection, believe me, with best wishes,

Very truly yours,

Theodore B. Belote

Curator.

P. S. This being an official inquiry, the enclosed envelope requires no postage stamp.

T. T. B.

March 21, 1931

Theodore Belote, Esq.
Curator, Division of History
United States National Museum
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

I have been puzzled over your drawing for several days and have come to absolutely no conclusions as to what it is. In other words, I give it up. I haven't even got a theory!

Sincerely yours,

Curator.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 9, 1931.
Division of History.

Mr. Howland Wood,
American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Could you furnish me with
a reference to any information giving a de-
tailed account of the circumstances under
which the Hawaiian coins were issued in 1883?

Thanking you greatly for any
assistance which you may be able to render in
this connection, believe me, with best wishes,

Very truly yours,

Theodore B. Petrie
Curator.

April 10, 1931

Mr. Theodore T. Belote
Curator, Div. of History
United States National Museum
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

I can give you no information nor any reference to the reason and circumstances of the Hawaiian coin issue of 1883. The probabilities are that Kalakaua wanted to get a place in the limelight and felt that the islands needed a more uniform coinage than they already had. He and his predecessors had issued stamps for many years, and Kalakaua himself had instituted certain decorations. The earlier issue, the pennies of 1847, were gotten out, as I understand it, largely through the instrumentality of the American Board. The dies and the pieces were struck in New England. As a matter of fact, they were instrumental in getting out the first stamps for the islands.

Sincerely yours,

Curator.

September 19, 1931.

Mr. Theodore Belote
The Smithsonian Institution
United States National Museum
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

I am returning your photographs of coins with the information inscribed on the back. Coins 1 to 4 are absolute fakes, as they are in gold; all of them look as if they were cast. The other coins have little or no value as they are either common or in such poor condition.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 5, 1931.

Mr. Howland Wood,
American Numismatic Society,
156th Street & Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have recently received for examination and report a type-metal silvered medallion ~~is~~ shown in the enclosed rubbing. The lower part of the obverse below the two heads consists of a crescent, one-half of which is inscribed with Greek characters in relief, the other half is inscribed with cufic characters incuse.

The reverse of the piece shows a man with a staff advancing to the right accompanied by a dog upon whose body appears the heads of other dogs.

This curious piece has been forwarded to the Museum by some one in Florida, a locality from which we have recently received a number of ancient coins. I am inclined to believe the madallion is nothing more than a modern imitation, and I should like very much to know whether such a piece has been submitted to the Society for examination?

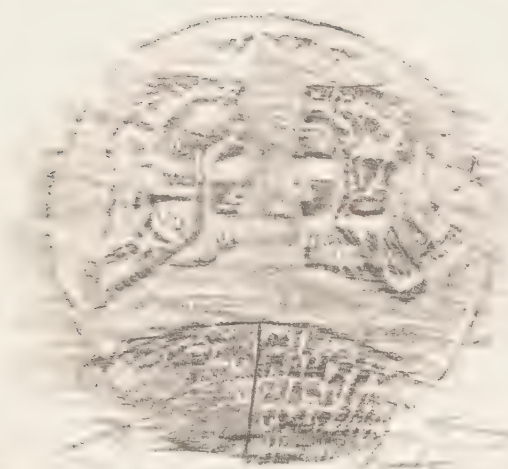
Thanking you greatly for any assistance which you may render in this connection, believe me, with best wishes,

Very truly yours,



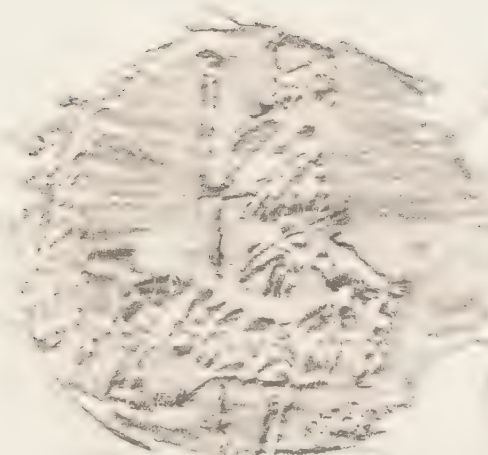
Theodore T. Belote,
Curator of History.

Encl.



Letter

Letter in a brief



Letter

December 8, 1931.

Mr. Theodore T. Belote
Curator of History
Smithsonian Institution
United States National Museum
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

I have never seen the medal of which you send a rubbing, nor can I give you any clue as to what it is for, etc. It certainly is modern. The only thing I can say is that possibly the identification of it could be gotten from the inscription. Sorry I cannot help you.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Division of History,
June 15, 1932.

Mr. Howland Wood,
Curator, American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have received for examination and report the bronze coin shown on the enclosed rubbing. This specimen, which bears all the earmarks of being a counterfeit or imitation, resembles very greatly, in general design, the silver tetradrachms of Alexander the Great.

I should like very much to know whether any counterfeits of this type have recently been submitted to the Society. Any information which you can supply me in this connection will be very greatly appreciated.

Believe me, with best wishes,

Very truly yours,

Howard Crosby
Curator.



OFFICE

OF THE

by the way with
L. H. S.

June 20, 1932.

Mr. Theodore T. Belote
U. S. National Museum
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

I can tell you nothing about the Alexander coin except that it is an out and out fake. The whole appearance even from your rubbing shows this and the fact that it is in copper. Neither Howell nor I have seen one with the word "SOSTHENOU" on it. Similar pieces have in recent years come from the Balkans, especially Bulgaria where they have been faking some coins on this order endeavoring to put on them for patriotic reasons the names of old Balkan kings that are not previously on coins. The e is a coin of Lysimachus with "SOS II" on it which may have given the counterfeiters this idea.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Division of History,
December 6, 1932.

Mr. Howland Wood,
Curator, American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Can you tell me whether the French piece of which I enclose some very unsatisfactory rubbings is a coin or merely a jeton? The obverse side bears an uncrowned shield with three lilies and the legend "Ave Maria Gracia". The reverse side is inscribed "M A " four times, once in each angle of the cross.

Thanking you in advance for any information which you may be able to give me in this connection, believe me, with best wishes,

Very truly yours,

Theodore B. Petrie

Curator.

December 7, 1932.

Mr. Theodore Belote
Smithsonian Institution
United States National Museum
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

Your French piece is an early
computing jetton or counter. This type must
have been made for a century or so as one runs
across them all the time. It has virtually no
value.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

- January 10, 1934.

Mr. T. T. Belote
National Museum
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

As I have not seen a word in the papers nor heard from Washington, could you telephone, if you do not already know, Miss O'Reilly or Mr. Laylain (the one we were in conference with) and find out if the modification we worked on went through. I have been stalling all inquiries and there is a Numismatic Club meeting Friday night, and our own annual meeting Saturday afternoon of this week. I would appreciate it if it is possible for you to let me know. Also, I would like to get a notice of any modification in the Numismatist for February.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG /

Curator

National Museum
Washington, D.C.
January 11, 1934.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Many thanks for the letter to
Mr. Becht and me concerning your visit
with the Becht family. It was a great
pleasure to have you and I hope you
will not regret to call on us when
you next come to Washington. I have
hoped very much that your brief stay
would have been marked with a
temporary indisposition and I hope
your visit will be most pleasant.

I have just returned from a trip
to the National Bureau of Standards where I
saw Mr. C. P. Keeler who informed me
that a new reaction has been taken
by the Government to modify the original
agreement concerning the purchase
of the land. I have not yet received any infor-
mation along this line I will let you
know. For a certainly best as interest
in connection with the project and
I hope you will see for the situation will
have some effect but can't say just
now whether it will or will not.

Believe me with best wishes and
hoping to see you in the near future.
Very truly yours
Thurmond B. Becht

January 12, 1934.

Mr. Theodore T. Belote
United States National Museum
Washington, D. C.

Dear Belote:

Many thanks for your prompt reply. To tell you the truth I had a sneaking idea that the modification as drawn up would not go through. This was intuition on my part. However, I hope something will be done and if you do hear would thank you to let me know.

Very truly yours,

HW: JG

Curator

1613 Longfellow St.
Washington D.C.
February 6, 1934.

Dear Mr. Wood

Unless my plans are changed
by some unforeseen obstacle, I
hope to spend some time next
weekend at the A.N.S. Lodge, and I
hope I may be so fortunate as
to catch you at home, that is I
mean ^{at your office}. I am bring-
ing with me some photographs
of some of the decorations owned
by Fritz Kohn. I should like to
get your advice on and I would
like to have a little Chat with
you about the coin situation.

If you do not expect to be at
the A.N.S. Tuesday would you leave
someone else with me and visit the
decorations? Of course I hope that
I may be so fortunate as to see
you in person. As usual I shall
be in a great hurry and I am very
fortunate to make the trip at all.
And the visit to the A.N.S. came up,
as a side issue or I would have
given you more notice in advance.

With best wishes, believe me
Very truly yours,
Theodore S. Pelt

February 8, 1934.

Mr. Theodore T. Belote
The National Museum
Washington, D. C.

My dear Belote:

Your letter just at hand
and D. V. I will be here on Tuesday
and will be very glad to see you.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Division of History,
February 15, 1934.

Mr. Howland Wood,
American Numismatic Society,
156th and Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Many thanks for your cooperation
in connection with the identification of the Holm
decorations and for the loan of the leaflet which
I enclose herewith.

Believe me, with best wishes,

Very truly yours,

Theodore B. Pettit
Curator.

Division of History,
U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.
November 16, 1935.

Mr. Howland Wood,
American Numismatic Society,
159th Street and Broadway,
New York, New York.

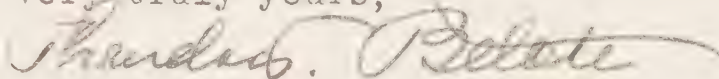
Dear Mr. Wood:

Please inform me whether the Jewish shekels, shown at the top of page 171 of F. W. Madden's "History of Jewish Coinage" have been frequently copied in lead casts covered with a thin coat of bronze. I have received a piece of this type for examination which appears to me to be a modern forgery made in the manner stated above.

If you can inform me whether such forgeries are common and also whether coins of this design were ever struck in bronze, I shall be very much obliged.

Thanking you in advance for this information and with best wishes, believe me,

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles D. Beale".

Curator.

November 18, 1935.

Mr. Theodore T. Belote
U. S. National Museum
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

The Jewish shekels as illustrated in Madden at top of page 171 were in silver, though I think much alloyed. During the past two years I have seen an number of modern struck fakes in copper and possibly in lead copper-plated. While making these I cannot say but we have had enough of these sent into us to make us think that some plant must be going to manufacture them. Without knowing it as a fact, I am inclined to think that since Palestine and Jerusalem have attracted tourists they are probably being worked off on the gullible.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

December 5, 1935.

Mr. T. T. Belote
U. S. National Museum
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your book on American and European Swords for which I wish to thank you for sending on to me. So far I have only cut the pages and studied the illustrations but I am looking forward to going through it shortly. I was glad to have seen you the several times you were here in town on your recent trip. Without putting yourself out, if you can give me any information on the personnel for the new archive department I would be glad.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

December 30, 1935.

Mr. Theodore T. Belote
United States National Museum
Washington, D. C.

Dear Belote:

Did you ever find out any more about the Archives Department and how to break into it? My brother-in-law has just written me asking me if I have seen anything. If you are not in a position to find out let me know just who and the department to write to concerning entering their employ.

Sincerely yours,

HM:JC

Curator

Division of History,
U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.
January 4, 1936.

Mr. Howland Wood,
Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I regret very much the delay in connection with a reply to your inquiry concerning applications for positions on the staff of the Archivist of the United States. I hope that the information which I forwarded to you last Monday in this connection has reached you safely.

With best wishes, believe me,

Very truly yours,

Murdock Pate

January 9, 1936.

Mr. Theodore T. Belote
Division of History
U. S. National Museum
Washington, D. C.

Dear Belote:

The information you gave me I have sent on to my brother-in-law and I am enclosing his card of thanks. I have just heard from the St. Louis people that Miss O'Reilly has asked to have the three Kruger blanks sent on so as to definitely establish their status. Therefore, they may come to you again.

Very truly yours,

H :JG

Curator

January 17, 1936.

Mr. T. T. Belote
U. S. National Museum
Washington, D. C.

Dear Belote:

Can you give me any idea on what salaries they might be paying the different positions in the Archives Department? My brother-in-law has applied to Hyde, who he knows somewhat, and one of the questions asked is what is the lowest position as to salary for which you wish this to be considered an application. My brother-in-law cannot afford to go for less than \$3500.00 and does not want to cheapen himself by asking this if \$4500.00 or something like that would be the more correct amount. I know this is out of your line but you might have some idea better than he or I. I would like to get your ideas as quickly as possible. If necessary telegraph me collect.

Sincerely yours,

HD:JC

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Division of History,
April 3, 1936.

Mr. Howland Wood,
Curator, American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have received for identification a very interesting oval gold badge, 20 x 25 mm. in size, bearing on the obverse a bearded bust apparently representing Charles IX of France, surrounded by the legend "En Tout Fidelles Au Roy" and on the reverse, clasped hands projecting through a heavy girdle surrounded by the legend "Jusques A Porter La Besace". The badge is suspended from a ring and is accompanied by three gold ornaments, two representing cups and the third a small vase. This specimen appears to me to be of more than usual interest.

I beg to inquire whether your collection includes a similar badge and whether you can, without undue trouble, give me any information concerning the origin and history of such pieces.

Thanking you in advance for any data in this connection and with the very kindest regards, believe me,

Very truly yours,

Hubert A. Betate
Curator

Division of History,
U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.
April 7, 1936.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Please inform me whether you can, without undue expenditure of time and trouble, give me the nationality and approximate age of the eight copper coins, the obverses and reverses of which are shown in the enclosed prints. The three pieces in the lower row are probably quite beyond the range of identification and I sincerely trust you will not give them any special consideration.

You may, if you wish, retain the prints, as I have some others.

Thanking you very greatly for any assistance you may render in this connection, believe me, with best wishes,

Very cordially yours,

Howland O. Tetlow

April 11, 1936

Mr. T. T. Belote,
Division of History,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

Your two letters at hand. The oval gold badge with the cups and vase attached was the badge used by the Dutch patriots known as the Gueux and comes in seven sizes and with and without the ornaments. You will find a lengthy description of this in Von Loon, Volume 1.

There is a very clever fake of this floating around. I saw it here some months ago and possibly the one you have reference to is this fake.

I have attributed what I could of the Indian coins and am returning the photographs. I have marked on the back what they are. The three very poor coins I could not work out.

I expect to be in Washington on Friday, the 24th. Mrs. Wood is down there at the D.A.H. annual meeting and we then plan to drive down to Williamsburg and then across Virginia and come back through the Shenandoah Valley. I will try to drop in to see you on that Friday.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks
ENCL.

Division of History,
U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Howland Wood,
American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Many thanks for your very kind letter of April 11. It will certainly be a pleasure to see you and Mrs. Wood next Friday. I trust it will be possible for you to telephone me the exact time when you expect to visit my office. I sincerely trust that the fine weather which we are now enjoying will continue during the period of your southern trip.

Believe me, with best wishes,

Very truly yours,

Theodore B. Pelete

April 20, 1936

Mr. Theodore T. T. Belote,
Division of History,
U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

Unless something happens I expect to blow in
to your office fairly early Friday morning as I
want to see Miss O'Reilly also, but I thought I would
give her time to at least glance through her mail.

I will not have much time in either place as
Mrs. Wood, my daughter and myself will try to clear
out of Washington Friday afternoon if we can and take
in a few things before getting to Williamsburg.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW lcs

Division of History,
U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Howland Wood,
Curator,
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway between 155th and 156th Street,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I take pleasure in enclosing herewith the answers
to the questions in your letter of June 2.

Will you please advise me what you think of the
subject matter of the enclosed letter (copy) from the Fed-
eral Trade Commission?

Very truly yours,

Thos. Dore. Pelote

Curator.

June 10, 1936

Mr. T. T. Belote,
U.S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

Many thanks for the answers to my questions on Mexican coins.

I was really much interested in the copy of the letter from the Federal Trade Commission. Evidently some of the advertisers of premium lists have launched out in a new racket and are trying to beat their competitors by offering premiums on non-existent coins.

The Lincoln cent as you know was first issued in 1909 and the Buffalo nickel in 1913. Therefore, Lincoln cents of 1908 and Buffalo nickels of 1912 do not exist. They possibly could keep within the law if patterns of these were made in these two years.

An inquiry at the Mint could determine this, or a perusal of the Mint Coin Collection. Of course none of these legitimately could get out.

As to the 1920 silver dollar, none were registered for a number of years until 1921 unless perchance the Mint made a die in 1920 and one or more specimens were struck.

I know complaints have been brought to the Federal Trade Commission by reputable dealers against certain statements made by these people selling premium lists.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks

Division of History,
U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.
July 3, 1936.

Mr. Howland Wood,
Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

In connection with the enclosed photographs which are the property of Mr. George T. Baker, senior, of Fort Pierce, Florida, will it be possible for you, without undue trouble, to tell me something of the possible value and period of the coins illustrated?

I am enclosing the requisite amount in postage stamps for the return of the photographs and I shall appreciate very greatly any information which you may be able to give me in this connection.

Very truly yours,

Frederick J. Delate
Curator.

July 9, 1936

Mr. T. T. Belote
National Museum
Washington, D. C.

Dear Belote:

It is a death blow that I am going to hand you. All of the pieces that you sent photographs of are fakes. I do not know the metal they are made in but they are all absolutely bogus. Most of them would have little or no value if genuine.

The large round piece with the square hole is a crude casting of a Korean charm. The long thin piece is a modern fake of a Japanese Cho Gin. I can tell it is a fake because they have stamped it over with the Mint Assayers and period marks so we get several periods on the same piece. These were punches modern fakers use to fake up pieces nearer to the originals than these.

On the other sheet, the small round piece is a fake Momme Gin. The fakers used for the reverse the die used for a rectangular flat coin. The larger oval piece is an out and out fabrication. There is nothing like it in the genuine series. The larger rectangular piece is a crude casting of a one ta silver piece. The other piece represents a gold two ba piece but by the stiffness of the design, looks like a fake. When genuine it would be worth no more than 7¢ to \$1.00 as they were made of a low grade gold.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HK ks
ENCLOSURE

Division of History,
U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.
July 14, 1936.

Mr. Howland Wood,
Curator, The American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Many thanks for your letter of July 9, giving me the desired information about the supposed coins owned by Mr. Baker. Your letter was not such a terrible shock as I suspected the truth in this connection but I wanted to be absolutely sure about them.

I hope the weather is not as warm in New York at present as it is in Washington but, of course, we are lucky in comparison with the residents of the Middle West.

With best wishes, believe me,

Very truly yours,

Thurmond B. Pettit

Curator.

Division of History,
U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.
September 25, 1936.

Mr. Howland Wood,
Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Please inform me whether the silver medal shown in the enclosed rubbing is, in your opinion, of any historical significance or commercial value. My impression is that many of these medals have been made in Europe during the past 200 years and used as religious amulets. The original from which the enclosed rubbing was made is said to have been found on the Missouri River Bluffs about one-half mile from the River and about eleven miles southeast of Bismarck, North Dakota. The original bears absolutely no date or indication of value of any kind.

I shall greatly appreciate any information you can give me concerning the possible origin and character of this specimen.

With best wishes, believe me,

Very truly yours,

Theodore Biddle
Curator.

September 30, 1936

Mr. Theodore Belote,
Division of History,
U.S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Belote:

The reason you did not hear from me was because I have been away for several days.

The piece of which you send a rubbing hardly rises to the dignity of a medal. It is really a talisman or amulet. Most, if not all of them, are made in Nuremberg where they have been made for two or three hundred years and are made today. They come in all sizes and metals, from gold, silver, brass plated and brass. The one you send a rubbing of is about the largest I have seen. They come down to the size of about half a dime.

I understand the earlier ones were made in Kremnitz. They have been considered a good luck piece for sailors and also for German army officers. Although used chiefly by the Germans, they seem to turn up all over the world. They have no numismatic value.

Mr. Noe is away for a few days.

Very truly yours,

Secretary

SN ks

October 15, 1936

Mr. Theodore T. Belote,
Division of History,
National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

We have had an inquiry from the Royal Coin Academy in Sweden, questioning the Swedish ducat described by Comparette in the Mint Catalogue, page 462, #3. They think the date is in error and also they would like to know just what the reverse looks like.

If you could, I wish you would look this up in the Collection and make me a nice pencil rubbing of the coin so I can send it to them. It is apparently the only gold ducat you have of Gustavus Adolphus.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks

October 19, 1936

Mr. T. T. Belote,
Division of History,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

Many thanks for your prompt reply. I have sent your letter and rubbing over to Seaton. This was exactly what was wanted.

The duvet dated 1883 was unknown to them.

Very truly yours,

Walter

HW ks

Division of History,
U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.
January 8, 1937.

Mr. Howland Wood,
Curator, American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I wonder if you can give me any specific information concerning the origin and history of the British tokens of the type shown in the enclosed rubbing? We have recently had a number of letters about this token which seems to be of unusual interest.

Thanking you for your assistance in this connection and with best wishes for the New Year, believe me,

Very truly yours,

Thurmond B. Kellogg

Curator.

January 11, 1937

Mr. Theodore T. Belote,
U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

I am afraid I can tell you little about the imitation spade guineas generally made of brass and sometimes gilded of the period of George III, except that there seemed to be an epidemic of making these and there are a great many different dies. Some were made for counters, others I think were for distribution - not official distribution but by store-keepers and that. Some have the names of merchants on the back, some have various happy inscriptions like the one of which you send a rubbing, others have the exact lettering as on the genuine pieces.

The spade guinea has always been considered a lucky piece or talisman and many Englishmen to the present day like to have one on their watch chain; consequently I think that many of these were made for lucky pieces for those who could not afford gold ones. The chief thing is that they are very common and virtually have no commercial value.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Division of History,
February 10, 1937.

Mr. Howland Wood,
The American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I regret to bother you again so soon but the enclosed impression, in reverse, and the enclosed letter (copy) may cause you some amusement.

I strongly suspect the thing which is causing so much excitement in Yugoslavia is merely a Moroccan coin and I shall await your translation of the inscription with much interest.

We are making great plans here for the meeting of the American Numismatic Association next August and I hope you will be on hand at that time.

With best wishes,

Very truly yours,

Frederick S. Bates
Curator.

COPY

Duga Ulica #18
Vulsovar
Yugoslavia

National Museum

Washington, D. C., U. S. A.

Gentlemen:

I am an American citizen traveling abroad and have come across a silver medal, owned by a gentleman here in Vulsovar, the imprint of which I am enclosing with this letter. He has not been able to find anyone to interpret the writing. It is supposedly a medal given by a Turkish king to Parisian officer and has been in his family over 200 years.

Will you kindly send us the interpretation of this medal and its value by return mail.

Thanking you in advance and trusting that I shall hear from you as soon as possible, I remain

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Mr. John Tremel

February 13, 1937

Mr. Theodore T. Belote, Curator,
Division of History,
U.S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

The piece that is so bothering the people in Yugoslavia is a modern 1/2 rija, struck in 1881 at the Paris Mint for Morocco and has no value. The coinage of this time and later was divided up between France, England, Germany and Spain to make the coins. France made the most of them, Berlin and England next, and as far as I know, Spain never made any.

I cannot give you a translation of the inscription because both the Moorish writing and dialect is just one beyond me.

I do not know whether I wrote you in my last letter that my assistant, Mr. Robert Robertson, dropped dead on the 22nd of January. Naturally we are now looking for someone else in the Coin Room. This is something not easy to find. Do you know of anyone who might like the job? You know what the general qualifications should be. The special qualifications would be some reading knowledge of French, German and any other languages, a little knowledge of Latin, Greek not essential, but a fairly good knowledge of coins in general. We are not looking for anyone with a special knowledge of ancient coins as we are well manned with those that know ancient coins.

He should be a jack of all trades, that is be able to clean coins, be able to arrange and show coins, and be a good letterer, etc. The pay would start in anywhere from \$30. to \$40. a week and would work up to probably about \$50. as assistant. After I go, he probably would be made Curator at much more.

I have one or two people in view but I want to make a pretty thorough survey before making a decision.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks

Division of History,
U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.
February 18, 1937.

Mr. Howland Wood,
The American Numismatic Society,
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Many thanks for your letter of February 13 giving me the desired information concerning the impression of the Moroccan coin.

I am sorry to say I do not know of anyone I might recommend for the position left vacant by the death of Mr. Robertson. Capable numismatists of the type desired are indeed scarce. I hope you will be able to locate someone capable of filling such an important position in a suitable manner.

With best wishes, believe me,

Very truly yours,

Howland Wood
Curator.

March 16, 1937

Mr. Theodore T. Belote,
U.S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

I have no authentic knowledge concerning the George Washington buttons, nor do I know where to look for the facts. All I know is hearsay, namely, that many things were made during Washington's presidency or after his death showing his portrait, etc. These buttons were made somewhere by someone and became quite popular among the people to wear on their coats.

I am sending your letter to Mr. W. L. Calver who knows more about buttons than anyone else, with a request to drop you a line if he can answer your question.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks

Division of History,
U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.
March 23, 1937.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
The American Numismatic Society,
New York City,
New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Many thanks, indeed, for sending my request for information concerning the George Washington buttons to Mr. Calver. I have just received a fine letter from him giving me some information in this connection and promising to send me, later, more data on this interesting subject.

With best wishes,

Very truly yours,

Harold B. White
Curator.

Division of History,
U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.
April 29, 1937.

Mr. Howland Wood,
The American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York, New York.

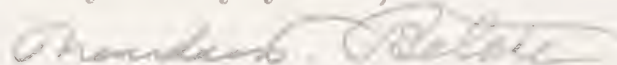
Dear Mr. Wood:

Have you seen any specimens of the object, made of brass, of which I enclose a drawing (actual size), which I have received from the writer of the two letters, copies of which I enclose? The reverse of the object is plain.

There is nothing in the National Numismatic Collection of this character and I am wondering whether he is correct in thinking that the object is a coin.

Thanking you very much for any information which you can give me in this connection, believe me, with best wishes,

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Howard Crosby".

Curator.



Leaving Water??

Levee #1 somewhat good.
" #2 Very close

COPY

119 West Nevada St.,
El Paso, Texas.
April 3, 1937.

Smithsonian Institute,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sirs:

I have a copper coin in the shape of an arrow head which I purchased in the thieves market at Mexico City about thirty years ago. I was told that it was a nine cent piece and the first money Cortez used with the Indians after he conquered Mexico. If you think you would be interested I will gladly send it for your inspection. If you would not be interested I will appreciate your kindness if you will forward this letter to a coin collector who might be interested in buying it.

Yours truly,

/s/ Sterling H. Robertson

COPY

119 West Nevada St.,
El Paso, Texas.
April 22, 1937.

U. S. National Museum
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sirs:

With reference to your letter of the 16th instant,
I am forwarding today by express the coin referred to
in my letter of the 3rd instant.

The three quarters of a cartwheel is supposed to
represent its value of nine cents (centavos) A whole
wheel is twelve cents or a bit or a real. I do not know
what the letters represent although three of them appear to
be "sol" (sun). Unless you know of a collector who would
be interested in buying it, please return it by express
collect.

Thanking you in advance for your kindness,

Yours very truly,

/s/ Sterling H. Robertson

Apr. 30, 1937

Mr. T. T. Belote,
Division of History,
U.S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Belote:

Regarding the bronze piece submitted, supposed to be a coin of Cortez, I know nothing about it. I very much doubt if it is anything more than some hacienda token, made possibly 100 or 125 years ago, as many pieces similar to this were made at that time. There have been around in recent years crude inscribed silver lumps said to be coins of Cortez. There is nothing in Mexican numismatic history that shows anything but some crude gold plates at that time.

You might tell Mr. Robertson to get in correspondence with Dr. A. F. Pradeau, 808 Chapman Bldg., 756 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, Calif., who is the best authority on Mexican coins there is.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks

Division of History,
U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.
May 20, 1937.

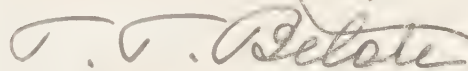
Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
The American Numismatic Society,
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I wonder if you can give me the source of the
small copper coin shown in the enclosed rubbing and drawings.

Thanking you greatly for this assistance, believe
me,

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. V. Pelote".

Curator.

May 21, 1937

Mr. Theodore T. Belote,
U.S.National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

Your coin is a pice struck by the native state of
Bhopal in India. As I don't see the date, I cannot give
you just when it was struck, but from the style, sometime
within the past 50 years.

It has no rarity.

Very truly yours,

Curator

Hks

Division of History,
U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.
June 3, 1937.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
The American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York, New York.

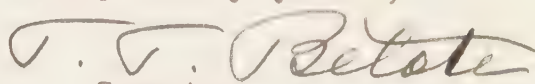
Dear Mr. Wood:

I have recently received for inspection and report a gold piece corresponding in diameter, appearance and date with the United States eagle of 1799. The piece submitted for inspection, however, is twice as thick and weighs twice as much as the United States eagles of the date indicated. The owner of this piece claims that it was genuine and was as he stated an \$18.00 gold piece. He stated also that he had had in his possession a \$16.00 piece of the same type.

I must confess this is a subject on which I am not informed. Are such pieces common and well known? I shall appreciate very greatly any information which you can give me in this connection.

Thanking you for your recent identification of the Bhopal copper coin and with best wishes, believe me,

Very truly yours,


Curator.

June 8, 1937

Mr. Theodore T. Belote,
Division of History,
U.S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

I have never heard of any of our early gold being twice thickness, or in fact being of anything except correct weight or their legal tolerance. That phase is new to me. I think the best-informed person to write to concerning this is:

James G. Macallister
3400 N. 5th Street
Philadelphia, Pa.

Why not drop him a line.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks

Division of History,
U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.
September 13, 1937.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York, New York.

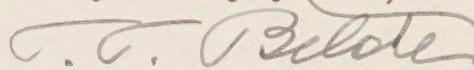
Dear Mr. Wood:

I have recently received for identification a brass token 5/8" in diameter, bearing on one side a large thistle between the small capitals I-R and on the reverse a crown above the Roman numerals IIII S below which appear the characters A P or 4 B. I am of the opinion that this object is not a coin but a weight and it occurred to me that you might have a similar weight in your collection.

This particular specimen was recently dug up near Fredericksburg, Virginia and as usual in such cases has greatly aroused the interest of the Washington newspapers. Any information you can furnish me in this connection will be greatly appreciated.

With best wishes,

Very truly yours,


Curator.

Sept. 16, 1937

Mr. T. T. Belote,
U.S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

From your description I should take it that the piece you mention is a weight, probably for four shillings, and is Scotch, the time of James V or VI. The fact that it is brass would make it almost surely so and if it is fairly thick in proportion to its breadth would clinch the matter, as tokens for the most part were rather thin.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks

Nov. 12, 937

Mr. T. T. Belote,
U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Belote:

On receipt of your letter of Nov. 6th I took the matter of the anchor up with the Hispanic Society. Herewith is their reply which you see amounts to nothing.

It is not old looking to me, that is, of the time of De Soto. The stones being so roughly cut do look rather old but I do not think they mounted small stones in just the manner that these are shown. Is there not some jeweler in Washington who knows antique jewelry who could advise you? I think that would be the best place to take such a thing. I do not know whether you have the actual anchor or not but that would almost be necessary to have if you wish to find out about it.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks
encl.